

## AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A method of guiding hooks of an anastomotic connector into an aperture of a blood vessel, comprising:

surrounding said hooks with a mechanical element that compresses them towards each other;

inserting said compressed hooks into an aperture of ~~[[a]] one of two blood vessels vessel, wherein said hooks are configured to engage two blood vessels to form a fluid tight connection between an opening in the sidewall of one of said two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels; and;~~

engaging tissue of an opening in the sidewall of one of the two blood vessels and the other of said two blood vessels with said hooks to form a fluid tight connection therebetween; and

releasing said hooks, wherein surrounding comprises inserting said hooks into a wire loop.

2. (canceled)